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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/998,412	12/03/2001	Kwang Soo Choc	K-0345	5933

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P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, VA 20153-1200

EXAMINER

NELSON, FREDA ANN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3628

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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01/09/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/998,412

Applicant(s)

CHOE ET AL.

Examiner

Freda A. Nelson

Art Unit

3628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 10,12,68,71 and 72 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 68 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10,12,68, and 71-72 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

The amendments received on November 28, 2007 is acknowledged and entered.

Claims 1-9, 11, 13-67, and 69-70 have been canceled. No claims have been added.

Claims 10, 12, 68, and 71-72 are currently pending.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on November 28, 2007 has been entered.

Response to Amendment and Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed November 28, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's arguments in regards to claim 1, that the cited sections do not teach or suggest a database server to store information about a plurality of dealing companies, credit information for each of the plurality of dealing companies, and order restriction information of a plurality of tangible products;; and Peterson also does not teach or suggest a database server to store order restriction information of a plurality of tangible products. The examiner asserts that Chaturvedi et al. disclose

“ratings or other performance information may reflect performance of a potential partner during prior pre-execution phases of the same or one or more previous execution cycles, prior execution phases of one or more previous execution cycles, or prior post-execution phases of one or more previous execution cycles. For example, the marketplace 16 may provide information about past performance of suppliers 14 to a buyer 12 to allow the buyer 12 to determine whether, to what extent, and under what conditions to purchase from a particular supplier 14. Similarly, marketplace 16 may provide information about the past performance of buyers 12 to a supplier 14 or another participant (such as a financier or other financial entity) to allow the supplier 14 or other participant to better determine whether, to what extent, and under what conditions to transact business with a particular buyer 12” (col. 3, lines 17-37). Chaturvedi et al. further discloses “that FIG. 4 illustrates an example method of setting up marketplace 16 to provide decision support based on past participant performance as described above; and although described primarily in connection with set-up information for a supplier 14, the present invention contemplates the method being performed analogously for each buyer 12 and supplier 14 coupled to marketplace 16; wherein the method begins at step 100, where supplier 14 specifies its set-up information. Set-up information for supplier 14 may include, in any suitable combination and without limitation: items generally available from supplier 14; collaboration activities in which supplier 14 is willing to participate; information about contracts that exist between supplier 14 and buyers 12; communications information to allow the enterprise systems 28 of the supplier 14 to communicate ratings, data files 26, planning output 34, or other

appropriate information with marketplace 16; credit-related information; payment-related information; or other suitable set-up information (col. 12, lines 27-44).

Examiner Note

Examiner cites particular pages, columns, paragraphs and/or line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that, in preparing responses, the applicant fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson et al. (Patent Number 6,324,522), in view of Chaturvedi et al. (US Patent Number 6,963,849).

As per claim 10, Peterson et al. disclose an e-commerce system, comprising:
a database server to store information about a plurality of dealing companies and order restriction information of a plurality of products (col. 8, lines 18-26; col. 41, lines 51-61; FIGS. 13-16); and

a web server, coupled to the database server, and configured to operate a web site to receive on-line orders for an on-line sale of each of the plurality of products, acquire information about the respective products and dealing companies and registering the acquired information to the database server, and perform order control for order-generating dealing companies, when an order for a product purchase is generated from the corresponding dealing companies (col. 43, lines 19-30).

an order control set-up server coupled to the database server and web server, and configured to restrict prescribed orders for each of the dealing companies based on information about the respective dealing companies (col. 5, lines 4-15; FIGS. 13-16).

Petersen et al. do not expressly disclose a database server storing credit information for each of the plurality of dealing companies; and the information of the respective dealing companies used to restrict prescribed orders relates to past performances of the corresponding dealing companies.

However, Chaturvedi et al. disclose ratings or other performance information may reflect performance of a potential partner during prior pre-execution phases of the same or one or more previous execution cycles, prior execution phases of one or more previous execution cycles, or prior post-execution phases of one or more previous execution cycles. For example, the marketplace 16 may provide information about past performance of suppliers 14 to a buyer 12 to allow the buyer 12 to determine whether, to what extent, and under what conditions to purchase from a particular supplier 14.

Similarly, marketplace 16 may provide

information about the past performance of buyers 12 to a supplier 14 or another participant (such as a financier or other financial entity) to allow the supplier 14 or other participant to better determine whether, to what extent, and under what conditions to transact business with a particular buyer 12 (col. 3, lines 17-37). Chaturvedi et al. further discloses that FIG. 4 illustrates an example method of setting up marketplace 16 to provide decision support based on past participant performance as described above; and although described primarily in connection with set-up information for a supplier 14, the present invention contemplates the method being performed analogously for each buyer 12 and supplier 14 coupled to marketplace 16; wherein the method begins at step 100, where supplier 14 specifies its set-up information. Set-up information for supplier 14 may include, in any suitable combination and without limitation: items generally available from supplier 14; collaboration activities in which supplier 14 is willing to participate; information about contracts that exist between supplier 14 and buyers 12; communications information to allow the enterprise systems

28 of the supplier 14 to communicate ratings, data files 26, planning output 34, or other appropriate information with marketplace 16; credit-related information; payment-related information; or other suitable set-up information (col. 12, lines 27-44).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Petersen et al. to include the invention of Chaturvedi et al. in order to provide economic circumstances of companies to use as a basis of participating in the marketplace and also for placing restrictions or conditions on purchases based on performances of buyers and/or sellers in order to facilitate marketplace transactions.

2. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson et al. in view of Kirsch (Patent Number 5,963,915).

As per claim 12, Peterson et al. do not expressly disclose the system of claim 10, wherein the order control set-up server further to restrict prescribed orders based on the order restriction information of the products in the database server, the restriction information including at least one of amounts in stock by the respective models of sales products, sale or sale-suspension of the respective models of the sales products, out-of-production or production of the respective models of the sales products. However, it is old and well known in the business industry to place restrictions on orders so products are not ordered which are out of stock or not carried by the merchant. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

made to modify the invention of Peterson et al. to include the feature of restricting orders in order to maintain ordering structure.

3. Claims 71-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peterson et al. (Patent Number 6,324,522), in view of Leonard et al. (Patent Number 6,085,171).

As per claims 71-72, Peterson et al. do not expressly disclose the system of claim 10, wherein the order control set-up server further to restrict prescribed orders based on the order restriction information of the products in the database server, the order restriction information of the tangible products relates to a minimum quantity of the available quantity of the corresponding tangible product; wherein the information of the respective dealing companies used to restrict prescribed orders relates to order-restricted products associated with a distribution channel of the corresponding dealing company; and wherein the information of the respective dealing companies used to restrict prescribed orders relates to past performances of the corresponding dealing companies.

However, Kumar et al. discloses that fulfillment server 16 may maintain information regarding suppliers and parent-child or other hierarchical relationships between suppliers, which fulfillment server 16 may use for order promising and other suitable purposes, as discussed more fully below. In one embodiment, definitions for suppliers maintained at fulfillment server 16 may include, in any suitable combination, without limitation: (1) name, (2) description, (3) category, (4) parent, (5) children, (6) the

products the supplier provides, (7) the groups associated with the supplier, (8) ranked or other list of preferred customers for a given product, (9) acceptable alternates or substitutes for a given product, (10) minimum and maximum quantities for orders, (11) order quantity constraint not allowing fulfillment server 16 to reduce the quotation quantity without affecting validity of quotation, (12) cancellation restrictions, (13) cancellation window outside of which orders cannot be canceled, (14) communications protocols supported by the supplier for receiving requests for quotation, quotation acceptances, cancellations, and/or other information; (15) communications protocols supported by the supplier for communication quotations, promises, acceptances, and/or other information; and (16) network addresses used to communicate with the supplier (paragraph [0033]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Petersen et al. to include the feature of Kumar et al. in order to provide suppliers a way of quoting more accurate delivery information to meet customer orders (Kumar, [0008]).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 68 is allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Freda A. Nelson whose telephone number is (571) 272-

Application/Control Number:
09/998,412
Art Unit: 3628

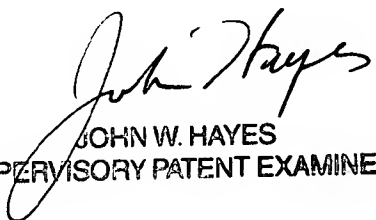

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7076. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Wednesday and Friday,
10:00 AM -6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on 571-272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

FAN 12/22/2007



JOHN W. HAYES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER